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CHAIRWOMAN

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

JAMES COMER, KENTUCKY
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM
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July 15, 2021

The Honorable Francis Collins, M.D., Ph.D.
Director
National Institutes of Health
9000 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20892

Dr. Anthony Fauci
Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
5601 Fishers Lane, MSC 9806
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Directors Collins and Fauci:

On May 28, 2021, we wrote to you requesting information regarding a 2014 grant awarded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to EcoHealth Alliance, Inc. (EcoHealth) that was subsequently awarded to the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV).[1] You failed to respond.

On June 29, 2021, Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis Republicans held a forum discussing the origins of COVID-19. Expert witnesses testified that "the COVID pandemic was not a natural process but instead came from a laboratory in Wuhan, China, and that it has the fingerprints of genetic manipulation through…gain-of-function research."[2] You were invited to testify at this forum. You refused to participate.

The NIH had a relationship with the WIV in Wuhan, China. It also has a responsibility for helping develop our country's response to pandemics, including COVID-19. In fact, you were key members of the COVID-19 task force. As such, we requested this information in an effort to understand whether failures occurred in our country's pandemic response and where improvements are needed. Necessarily, our request includes understanding the scope of the NIH's relationship with the WIV—the possible origin for the pandemic.

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[1] Letter from Hon. James Comer, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform and Hon Jim Jordan, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Hon. Francis Collins, Dir., Nat'l Inst. Of Health, and Dr. Anthony Fauci, Dir., Nat'l Inst. Of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (May 28, 2021).
[2] *Led By Science: The COVID-19 Origin Story: Forum Before Select Subcomm. on the Coronavirus Crisis, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform,* 117th Cong. (June 29, 2021) (statement by Dr. Steven Quay).

Due to the importance of this investigation, we renew our May 28, 2021 request today and request these documents pursuant to 5 USC § 2954—commonly referred to as the "Seven Member Rule." The Seven Member Rule is unique statutory authority—passed by Congress and signed by the President in 1928—requiring any executive agency to: "submit any information requested of it relating to any matter within the jurisdiction of the committee" on the request of any seven members of the Committee on Oversight and Reform.[3]

As our previous request highlights, mounting evidence suggests COVID-19 started in the WIV, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) covered it up, and the CCP is responsible for the deaths of more than 600,000 Americans and millions more worldwide. The relationship between the NIH, the WIV, and EcoHealth raises serious questions about use of taxpayer dollars for gain-of-function research and when U.S. health officials became aware of the WIV's role in the COVID-19 pandemic. The public health community—including the NIH—and the American people deserve the truth. The truth will enable American public health officials to prevent and minimize the effects of future global pandemics.

In fact, thousands of pages of Dr. Fauci's emails released under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) make this request even more urgent.[4] These emails indicate that Dr. Fauci knew early on of the possibility COVID-19 leaked from a U.S. taxpayer funded laboratory—the WIV.[5] Specifically, the emails show:

- Dr. Fauci knew of possible gain-of-function coronavirus research being conducted with taxpayer funds;[6]

- The Chief Executive Officer of EcoHealth pressured Dr. Fauci to rebuke the theory COVID-19 first emerged from the WIV;[7]

- Dr. Fauci was working closely with the CCP;[8] and

- At least one credible scientist stated in January 2020, in an email to Dr. Fauci, that some of the COVID-19 viral sequence "potentially look[s] engineered."[9]

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[3] 5 USC § 2954. 45 Stat. 996, §2 (1928). The statute itself refers to the "Committee on Government Operations of the House of Representatives." Since 1928, the standing Committee has been renamed several times and is currently known as the Committee on Oversight and Reform.
[4] *See* Natalie Bettendorf & Jason Leopold, *Anthony Fauci's Emails Reveal The Pressure That Fell on One Man,* BUZZFEED NEWS (June 1, 2021), https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/nataliebettendorf/fauci-emails-covid-response.
[5] *Id.*
[6] Email from Hugh Auchincloss to Anthony Fauci (Feb. 1, 2020) (on file with Comm. staff).
[7] Email from Peter Daszak to Anthony Fauci (Apr. 18, 2020) (on file with Comm. staff).
[8] Email from George Gao to Anthony Fauci (Mar. 28, 2020) (on file with Comm. staff).
[9] Email from Kristian Anderson to Anthony Fauci (Jan. 31, 2020) (on file with Comm. staff).

Unfortunately, many of these emails are redacted. These redactions frustrate the Committee's efforts to uncover the truth as it relates to the CCP's culpability and whether NIH officials engaged in a cover-up.

Therefore, we renew our previous request for documents and information pertaining to the relationship between the NIH and EcoHealth pursuant to 5 USC § 2954, the Seven Member Rule. Please produce these documents as soon as possible but no later than July 29, 2021. For your ready reference, those requests are reiterated below:

1. All documents and communications between NIH and EcoHealth regarding grant R01AI110964 from October 1, 2019 through present.

2. All documents and communications between NIH and WIV regarding grant R01AI110964 from October 1, 2019 through present.

3. All documents and communications pertaining to or resulting from any U.S. government-led inspection of the WIV arranged by EcoHealth.

4. All documents and communications regarding Potential Pandemic Pathogen Care and Oversight Committee review of R01AI110964.

5. All documents and communications regarding gain of function research funded by EcoHealth or any other U.S. entity.

Further, we request unredacted versions of the following emails that were released under FOIA as soon as possible but no later than July 29, 2021:

1. NIH-000262-NIH000264
2. NIH-000443
3. NIH-000470-NIH000471
4. NIH-000703
5. NIH-001920-NIH-001922
6. NIH-002014-NIH-002018
7. NIH-002149
8. NIH-002157-NIH002161
9. NIH-002218-NIH002221
10. NIH-002215-NIH002226
11. NIH-002314-NIH002324
12. NIH-002381-NIH002383
13. Email from Peter Daszak to Anthony Fauci, et.al. (Apr. 18, 2020, 9:43 PM)
14. Email from Francis Collins to Anthony Fauci, et. al. (Apr. 16, 2020, 5:02 PM)
15. Email from Anthony Fauci to Francis Collins (Apr. 17, 2020, 2:45 AM)

In addition to these documents, please provide a full and complete briefing on these topics as soon as possible but not later than July 22, 2021. To schedule the briefing or ask any follow-up or related questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Reform staff at (202) 225-5074.

Further, the House Rules designate the Committee on Oversight and Reform as the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives with broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time," under House Rule X. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.

Sincerely,

James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform

Jody Hice
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations

Glenn S. Grothman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security

Michael Cloud
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy

Ralph Norman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Environment

Pete Sessions
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Jim Jordan
Member of Congress

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress

Virginia A. Foxx
Member of Congress

Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress

Clay Higgins
Member of Congress

Fred Keller
Member of Congress

Andy Biggs
Member of Congress

Andrew S. Clyde
Member of Congress

Nancy Mace
Member of Congress

Scott Franklin
Member of Congress

Jake LaTurner
Member of Congress

Pat Fallon
Member of Congress

Yvette Herrell
Member of Congress

Byron Donalds
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly, Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch, Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi, Chairman
Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy

The Honorable Ro Khanna, Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment

The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Chairman
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties